

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00783 050446Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /062 W

----- 062557

R 031100Z JULY 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0490

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 0783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: POLITICAL

SITUATION IN PUNJAB

REF: LAHORE 741

1. PRIME MINISTER HAS APPARENTLY APPLIED BRAKES TO PROCESS OF EXPECTED CHANGES OF GOVERNOR AND CHIEF MINISTER IN PUNJAB, GIVING RISE TO SPECULATION THAT BHUTTO MAY BE HAVING DIFFICULTY MAKING UP HIS MIND WHAT TO DO, OR THAT HE HAS OPTED FOR DIFFERENT MOVES. RUMOR MILL HEATED UP ON JUNE 29, WHEN FORMER GOVERNOR SADIQ QURESHI TOLD SOME MPA'S HE EXPECTED TO BE SWORN IN AS CHIEF MINISTER WHEN PUNJAB ASSEMBLY RECONVENED JULY 7. AT ABOUT SAME TIME, GOVERNOR KHAR SUDDENLY LEFT FOR MURREE, CHIEF MINISTER RAMAY WENT TO RAWALPINDI TO SEE PM, AND WORD CIRCULATED AROUND LAHORE THAT BHUTTO WOULD ARRIVE IN CITY JULY 3 TO PRESIDE OVER CHANGES.

2. BUT ON JULY 2, PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER ANNOUNCED THAT REOPENING OF ASSEMBLY WAS BEING POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, AND PAPERS REPORTED THAT PM HAD CALLED LAHORE PPP LEADERS TO RAWALPINDI JULY 7-9. ON SAME DAY, QURESHI ISSUED PLEA TO PRESS  
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PAGE 02 LAHORE 00783 050446Z

TO AVOID ATTRIBUTING TO HIM ANY SPECULATION ON POLITICAL CHANGES IN PUNJAB, AND WIRE SERVICES CARRIED STORY DATED RAWALPINDI SAYING PM HAD SUMMONED HOME PAK AMBASSADOR TO UK, MIAN MUMTAZ DAULTANA.

3. ABOUT SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, PPP SECRETARY VPNERAL MUBASHIR HASAN ENTERED FRAY AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD ISSUED "SHOW CAUSE" NOTICES FOR "BLATANT ACTS OF INDISCIPLINE AND ATTEMPTS TO FORM CLIQUES" TO THREE PPP MNA'S, ALL FRIENDS OF GOVERNOR KHAR. THROUGHOUT PERIOD, RAMAY HAS CONTINUED TO PREACH ABOUT SOCIALISM, AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES HAS GIVEN HIM PROMINENT BILLING DAILY, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS. PAPER ALSO USUALLY MENTIONS KHAR, BUT ALWAYS ON INSIDE PAGE IN SMALL TYPE, AND HAS PLAYED UP ATTACKS ON HIS FRIENDS.

4. TWO MORE NAMES HAVE CROPPED UP IN SPECULATION ABOUT WHO WILL BE NEXT GOVERNOR: PIA CHAIRMAN AND RETIRED AIR MARSHAL NUR KHAN, AND FORMER MNA NOOR HAYAT KHAN NOON, WHO IS LOCAL BUSINESSMAN AND SON OF LATE PRIME MINISTER FERAZ KHAN NOON. SEVERAL LAHORE OBSERVERS HAVE TOLD US THEY BELIEVE PLETHORA OF NAMES CIRCULATING IN RUMOR MILLS INDICATES THAT NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING BECAUSE BHUTTO HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND.

5. COMMENT: QURESHI SOUNDS TO US LIKE MAN WHO HAS COMMITTED INDISCRETION, WHICH MIGHT BE REASON FOR DELAY IN SHIFTS. EVERY TIME FORMER CHIEF MINISTER DAULTANA IS SAID TO BE VISITING PAKISTAN, SPECULATION ARISES THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN IMPORTANT DOMESTIC POSITION, DESPITE FACT HE IS MUSLIM LEAGUER. ALTHOUGH BOTH ARE RESPECTED HERE, WE DOUBT THAT DAULTANA AND QURESHI WOULD BE INSTALLED TOGETHER, BECAUSE BOTH ARE MULTANIS AND WADERAS. INSTEAD, IT NOW BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF BHUTTO MAY CHANGE CHIEF MINISTER AND GOVERNOR AT DIFFERENT TIMES. WHOM AND WHEN REMAIN OBSCURE.  
GRIFFIN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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